(a) whether any survey was done or any seminar was held recently to identify the areas in Southern states for increasing exports; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Trade Development Authority of India (now Indian Trade Promotion Organisation) conducted two studies entitled "Action Plan for Promotion of Exports" in respect of Tamil Nadu in 1990-91 and Andhra Pradesh in 1991-92. The action Plans identified thrust products for export promotion.

As a part of the study for Tamil Nadu, a seminar was held in Madras on 31.1.1991. The recommendations of the seminar were circulated to the concerned agencies for follow-up action.

[*Translation*]

Memorandum from Private Bus Owners of Delhi

5952. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the private bus owners of Delhi to revise their fare structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Pursuant to the revision of STC's fares, the Associations of Private Bus Operators represented to the Delhi Administration revised the fares if Private buses in January, 1992. The details are as under:-

Distance	Fare
0-6 Kms	Rs. 1/-
6 to Kms	Rs. 2/-
Above 16 Kms.	Rs. 3/-

Raids on Industrialists

5953. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrialists raided by the income tax officials during March, 1988 to March, 1991;

(b) the amount of income tax recovered from these industrialists;

(c) the number of cases where they obtained stay orders; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for early finalisation of all these cases?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). 17,600 searches were conducted by the Income-tax Department on various assesses during the period from March, 1988 to March, 1991. Taxes are recovered at several stages before and after the completion of assessment as also on finalisation of appeals etc. Similarly, stay orders may be obtained against search and seizure, assessment, recovery proceedings etc. On these subjects, no consolidated case-wise record has been maintained by the Department for various categories of assesses like industrialists, trades, professionals, salary-earners etc.

(d) Time limits have been specified for completion of various proceedings under the Income-tax Act. Suitable administrative measures are also taken from time to time for early finalisation of such proceedings.

[*English*]

Import of Computer System

5954. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a public notification allowing import of all electronic equipment systems other than electronic goods against exim scrip has been issued recently;

(b) whether as per the present policy the Customs authorities can allow import of computer system against eximscrips;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that due to contrary directives given to the customs authorities, huge consignments of computer systems are being held up at various ports;

(d) whether the Indian computer industry has sought temporary protection against the import of computer system; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It was reported that a number of consignments of computer systems had arrived at various ports for clearence against Eximscrip and it was clarified that imports of computers and computer-based systems were not permitted against Eximscrips.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Computer systems including personal computers of CIF value below Rs.6 lakh have been put in the Negative List of Imports in the Export & Import Policy, 1992-97 announced on 31st March, 1992.

Wholesale and Consumer Price Indices

5955. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest number of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index of different groups of articles.

(b) how do these compare with figures of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to contain rise in these indices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The latest wholesale price index (WPI) and consumer price index (CPI) for industrial workers of different groups of articles and corresponding numbers for the last three years are given in the statement attached.

(c) In order to contain rise in these indices, Government has initiated a number of measures. These include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit, growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, and strict action against hoarders and profiters. Incentives are being provided for raising production to ensure medium-term stability in prices.